

Reference

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Streaky-breasted Pygmy Crakes *Sarothrura boehmi* in Nairobi National Park

On 2 May 1988 a *Sarothrura* was heard calling from an area of recently inundated grassland in Nairobi National Park; it was recognized immediately as *S. boehmi*. Later a tape recording of *S. boehmi* was played at the site and after some 45–50 min an adult male was observed standing at the roadside some 2 m from the tape recorder. It remained motionless for some 30 s before jumping back into the long grass. Later in the week up to four calling birds were located in this inundated area of about 4 ha. More calling birds were then discovered at two flooded sites about a kilometre from the first area, with up to four individuals at one of these new sites and a single bird at the other.

Although the sites were visited on an almost daily basis for the next two weeks, no further views other than glimpses of individual birds making short flights in the tall grassland were obtained, and no calling was noted after 26 May.

The Streaky-breasted Pygmy Crane is a rare intra-African migrant from the southern tropics with very few records from Kenya. Jackson (1938) gives details of two early records from Nairobi in May 1905 and mentions others from Machakos, Kisumu and Trans-Nzoia. The only recent record is of a female (all blackish in colour) flushed by a dog from flooded grassland alongside the perimeter fence of the Nairobi National Park on 8 June 1980 (Fleur Ng'weno in East African Bird Report 1980, *Scopus* 4: 106). Since then there were annual occurrences from 1982–85 of migrating birds caught and ringed in May at Mufindi in southern Tanzania (Baker, *et al.* 1984). These were birds presumably moving north from their breeding grounds in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

References

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